

May 7, 2004

The Honorable Judy Chu  
State Assembly  
Capitol Building #2148  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0049

RE: **AB 2902 (Hancock): CEQA; Project Approval – Support**  
**Assembly Committee on Appropriations – May 12 Hearing**

Dear Assemblywoman Chu:

On behalf of the City of Santa Barbara, I urge your support for AB 2902 by Assemblywoman Loni Hancock. This measure would prevent a public agency from approving a project without mitigating the impacts that the project may cause on other public agencies. AB 2902 is revenue-neutral to the State.

AB 2902 is intended to address project mitigation issues by preventing a public agency from simply “passing the buck” when it comes to addressing impacts a project will have on specified activities for which the lead agency is not responsible. This bill does not mandate the lead agency to mitigate those impacts if the lead agency finds that the mitigation project offered by the affected public agency is not feasible.

This bill is important to our City and to the South Coast of Santa Barbara County as we have two very large State institutions (UCSB and Santa Barbara City College) that are expanding and, therefore, needing public services from local governments to support that growth. When their growth involves increasing enrollment, the great majority of the traffic and housing impacts are un-mitigated.

It is only fair to expect a public agency to devote a portion of their resources to mitigating the impacts of their projects, and not to place this burden on local residents. AB 2902 creates a mechanism to address the impacts a project would have on activities for which lead agency is not directly responsible.

Therefore, I urge your support for AB 2902 (Hancock).

Sincerely,

Marty Blum  
Mayor

cc: Members and Consultant of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
Assemblywoman Loni Hancock  
Council Members  
Jim Armstrong, City Administrator

